

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6917

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPETWON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USUN NEW YOURK 1155

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: MOBUTU-MACHEL EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON RHODESIA

1. ON MARCH 9, ZAIRIAN PRESS PUBLISHED EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN SAMORA MACHEL AND MOBUTU REGARDING MOZAMBIQUE DECISION TO CLOSE ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA. IN HIS MESSAGE, MACHEL ADVISES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED SANCTIONS AS A MEANS OF ASSISTING PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST MINORITY SMITH REGIME. AT SAME TIME, MACHEL DREW ATTENTION TO FEB. 23-24 ATTACKS BY RHODESIAN FORCES ON TWO VILLAGES IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND
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EXPRESSED HOPE GOZ WILL UNDERTAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO SUPPORT

MOZAMBIQUE AGAINST AGGRESSION FROM MINORITY REGIME.

2. IN REPLY, MOBUTU RECALLED HIS OWN 1973 UN SPEECH PLEDGING GOZ'S SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE NOTED ZAIRE'S ENGAGEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM RACISM AND SEGREGATION ITS TOTAL. IT WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, MESSAGE CONTINUED, THAT ZAIRE TOOK ACTIVE PART IN LIBERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE AND DID NOT MEASURE ITS MORAL, MATERIAL AND DIPLOMATIC AID TO FRELIMO IN FIGHT AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM. IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING, MOBUTU'S MESSAGE CONCLUDED, THAT GOZ AID TO LIBERATION FIGHTERS IN RHODESIA CAN ONLY INTENSIFY IN SAME FASHION AS THAT PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED TO FRELIMO.

3. COMMENT: PRIOR TO EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES, A SERIES OF ARTICLES RUN BY GOVERNMENT BACKED ELIMA, HAD ADDRESSED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. THEME OF EDITORIALS WAS THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT UNITY IS NEEDED FOR RIDDING AFRICA OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM. PUTTING ELIMA ARTICLES AND TO MACHEL TOGETHER, IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THE GOZ HAD DECIDED TO JOIN IN THE RADICAL RHETORIC AIMED AT BAKING THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EXTENT TO WHICH MOBUTU ACTUALLY BACKS WORDS WITH MATERIAL ASSISTANCE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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